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Trends in police-reported serious assault

by Mia Dauvergne

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. not available for any reference period
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... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published

Trends in police-reported serious assaults

by Mia Dauvergne

- Serious assaults, namely, assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault and assault against peace officers, are among the few types of police-reported violent crime in Canada to have risen over the past decade.

- In 2008, there were about 54,000 assaults with a weapon or causing bodily harm, 3,500 aggravated assaults and almost 10,000 assaults against peace officers. Together, these types of incidents accounted for 15% of all violent crimes reported by police.

- Increases in police-reported serious assaults have occurred virtually across the country, with some of the largest increases in Nova Scotia. For example, the 2008 rate of assault against peace officers in Halifax was about four times higher than it was 10 years ago.

- Among the provinces, the highest rates of serious assault in 2008 were in Saskatchewan while the lowest were in Prince Edward Island. This finding is similar to that for overall violent crime.

- Police services in most of Canada's census metropolitan areas have reported increases in serious assaults since 1998. In 2008, Regina reported the highest rate of assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and Saskatoon reported the highest rates of aggravated assault and assault against peace officers.

- Approximately 42,000 persons in 2008 were accused of assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault or assault against a peace officer. Youth, aged 12 to 17 years, comprised 20% of all accused persons, similar to the proportion of youth accused of violent crime overall.

- In 2008, family members, acquaintances and strangers each accounted for about one-third of those accused of assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and aggravated assault. Females were most likely to be assaulted by family members, usually spouses, whereas males were most likely to be assaulted by acquaintances or strangers.

- About 7 in 10 assaults against peace officers involved at least one other offence. The most common were obstruction of a peace officer followed by level 1 assault, uttering threats, mischief, failure to comply with a disposition and breach of probation.

- Conviction rates for adult and youth court cases involving assaults against peace officers in 2006/2007 were higher than those for other serious assaults. Sentences, however, tended to be less severe, particularly in comparison to aggravated assault.

This report examines police-reported data on three types of assault: assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault and assaults against peace officers (including police).[1] For the purposes of this report, these three types of assault are referred to as "serious assaults", although the use of this terminology is by no means meant to imply that other forms of assault, such as sexual assault, are not serious.[2]

In general, incidents of assault are classified by police into one of three categories. Level 1 assaults are the most common and refer to assaults that cause little to no physical harm to victims. Level 2 assaults, or assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, are those that involve carrying, using or threatening to use a real or imitation weapon. These types of assault also include incidents that involve hurt or injury to a person that interferes with their health or comfort and is more than merely transient or trifling in nature. Level 3 assaults, also referred to as aggravated assaults, constitute those in which a victim is wounded, maimed, disfigured or whose life is endangered.

Assaults against peace officers refer to assaults involving police officers, correctional officers, bailiffs, justices of the peace, municipal by-law officers and others who are employed for the maintenance of public peace. In October 2009, new legislation came into force which creates three levels of assault against a peace officer, similar to the categories for assault in general (LEGISinfo, 2009). The data presented in this report, however, are not impacted by this legislative amendment.

This *Juristat* article analyzes data on these three types of serious assaults that have been reported to, and substantiated by, Canadian police services between 1983 and 2008. Data are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey beginning in 1983 when major changes were made to the *Criminal Code* definitions of assault that affected the comparability of data prior to this time.[3]

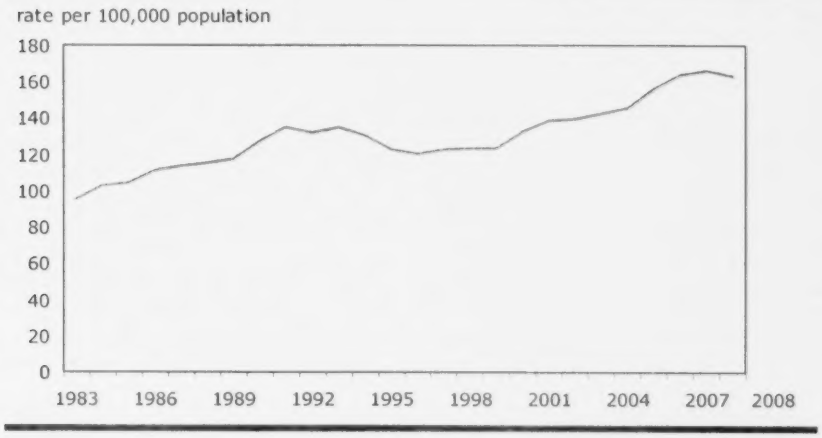
Data from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) are also used in this article. These data provide information on the decisions and sentencing outcomes for adult and youth court cases involving serious assault in Canada.

Serious assaults increase while most other police-reported violent crimes remain stable or decrease

The trend in the rates of police-reported serious assault over the past 10 years differs from those of most other violent crimes.[4] For instance, the rates of homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, robbery and level 1 assault have generally remained stable or declined. In contrast, the rates of level 2 and 3 assaults, as well as assaults against peace officers, have risen in recent years.

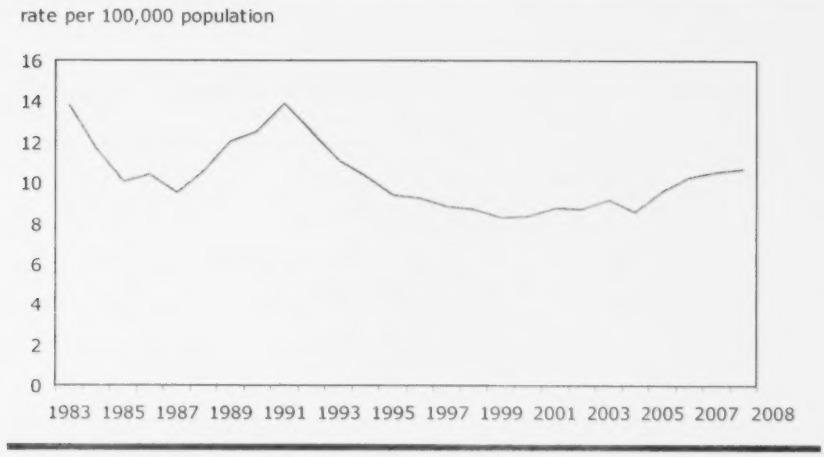
The increases in each type of serious assault began at different times. The rates of level 2 assaults have been generally rising since this information became available in 1983 (Chart 1). Level 3 assaults began rising in more recent years following a period of decline throughout the 1990s (Chart 2), and assaults against peace officers have been rising over the past decade (Chart 3).

Chart 1
Police-reported assaults with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), Canada, 1983 to 2008



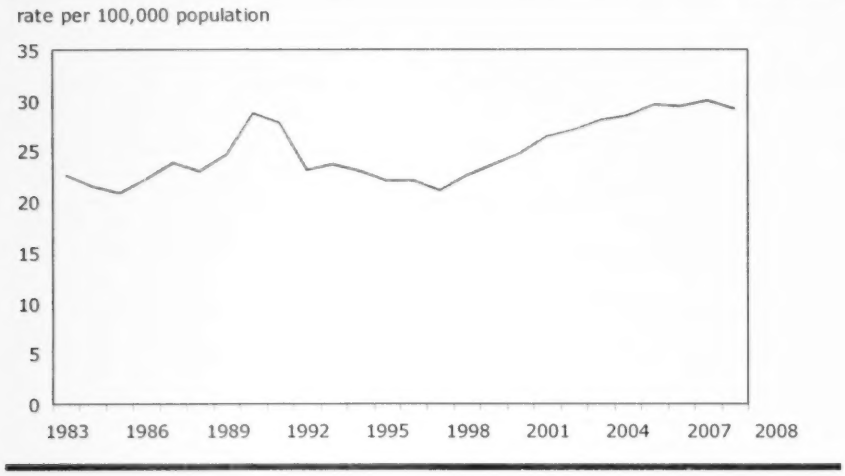
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Chart 2
Police-reported aggravated assaults (level 3), Canada, 1983 to 2008



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Chart 3
Police-reported assaults against peace officers, Canada, 1983 to 2008



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In 2008, police reported about 54,000 incidents of assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, 3,500 aggravated assaults and almost 10,000 assaults against peace officers (Table 1).[5] Additionally, about 2,500 assaults against peace officers occurred during the commission of another more serious violent offence. Together, serious assaults accounted for 15% of all violent crimes and about 3% of all crimes reported to police.

Official police-reported statistics likely represent an undercount of the actual number of serious assaults that occur, as not all crimes are known to police. Information from the most recent General Social Survey on Victimization indicates that about half of all victims who had been injured as a result of a physical assault subsequently reported the incident to police. In general, incidents that result in injury to victims are more likely to be reported to police than those that do not (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005).

Increases in police-reported serious assault occurred virtually across Canada

Like the trend in overall violent crime, police-reported rates of serious assault tend to be higher in the territories than in the provinces. In 2008, the rates of all three types of serious assault in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories were close to or more than double those in any of the provinces (Table 2). Provincially, the highest rates were in Saskatchewan with Saskatoon and Regina reporting some of the highest rates among all census metropolitan areas (Table 3). The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island.

The recent increases in serious assaults have occurred across the country, with only a few exceptions. Some of the largest increases have been in Nova Scotia where the increases in assault level 2 and assault against peace officers were well above those in any other province. In particular, the rate of assaults against peace officers in Halifax was four times higher than 10 years ago.

There are two provinces whose trends in serious assault differ from the norm: Ontario and Quebec. In Ontario, the rates of level 2 and 3 assault have remained relatively stable since the mid-1990s. And, while police-reported assaults against peace officers in Ontario have risen, the increase has been less than the national average.

In Quebec, police have reported gradual declines in the rate of level 3 assault for close to 20 years. Between 1998 and 2008, the rate of this offence dropped in each of Quebec's six census metropolitan areas. This province's increases in assault level 2 and assaults against peace officers, however, were similar to or higher than those reported in other provinces.

Increase in persons accused of serious assault greater among youth than adults

In 2008, approximately 42,000 persons were accused of serious assault in Canada–about 35,000 were accused of level 2 or 3 assault and almost 7,000 were accused of assault against a peace officer. Youth, aged 12 to 17 years, comprised 20% of all accused persons, slightly lower than the proportion of youth accused of violent crime in general.

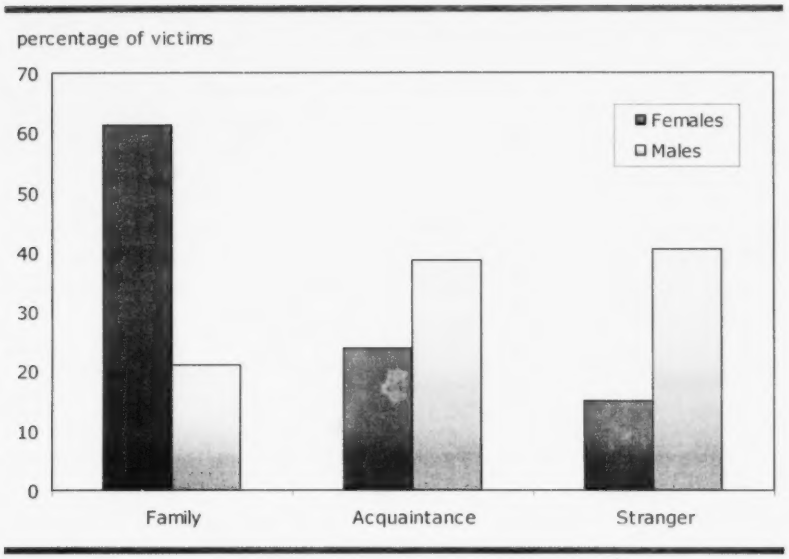
While the rates of persons accused of serious assault have increased among both adults and youth, the increase has been greater among youth. Between 1998 and 2008, the rate of youth accused of level 2 or 3 assault rose 28% compared to 12% for adults. Youth accused of assault against a peace officer increased by 52%, seven times higher than that for adults (7%).

Spouses, acquaintances and strangers account for relatively equal proportions of those accused of level 2 and 3 assaults

In general, there are three primary situations in which assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and aggravated assault occur: incidents of family violence,[6] disputes between acquaintances[7] and disputes between strangers. In 2008, each of these situations accounted for about one-third of all level 2 and 3 assaults solved by police (36%, 33% and 31% respectively).[8]

Differences in the accused-victim relationship become apparent when the sex of the victim is taken into account (Chart 4). In 2008, female victims were more likely than male victims to be assaulted by a family member (61% versus 21%), nearly three-quarters of which were committed by the victim's spouse. Family-related serious assaults against females usually occurred in a private residence (69%) and about 7 in 10 victims suffered some physical injury. Most, however, did not require medical treatment.

Chart 4
Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3), by gender of victim and relationship, 2008



Note: Includes incidents in which any violation was classified as an assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm or aggravated assault. The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey captures up to four violations for each incident.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In contrast to female victims, males were more likely to be seriously assaulted by an acquaintance (38%) or a stranger (40%) in a public or commercial setting, such as the street or parking lot. The level of injury suffered by male victims and the need for medical intervention were similar to that for females.

Assaults against peace officers normally occur in conjunction with another offence

Assaults against peace officers typically involve violations for other offences. In 2008, nearly 7 in 10 of these serious assaults occurred in conjunction with at least one other offence. The most common secondary offences were obstruction of a peace officer (36%), followed by level 1 assault (21%), uttering threats (18%), mischief (14%), failure to comply with a disposition (11%) and breach of probation (9%).[9]

Relatively few assaults against peace officers in 2008 involved a weapon or resulted in major physical injury. In 2008, police reported that 86% of such assaults were committed without a weapon and less than 1% required the officer to seek professional medical assistance.

Assaults against peace officers have higher conviction rates but less severe sentences than level 2 and 3 assaults

For a variety of reasons, such as insufficient evidence or the use of diversionary measures, many offences do not result in an accused person being processed through the court system. In 2006/2007, there were about 14,000 adult court cases of assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), over 1,200 cases of aggravated assault (level 3) and over 3,600 cases of assault against peace officers (Table 4).[10,11] In total, these three types of serious assault cases accounted for about 5% of the total adult criminal court caseload.

Conviction rates for cases involving serious assault vary depending on the type of assault. About half of all level 2 and 3 assault cases in 2006/2007 ended in a finding of guilt, similar to the conviction rate for level 1 assault cases as well as violent crime cases in general. The conviction rate for assault against peace officers, however, was among the highest of any violent crime. In 2006/2007, three-quarters of these types of cases ended in a finding of guilt.

Cases involving level 3 assault were more likely to result in a sentence to custody than cases involving other serious assaults. Average sentence lengths for level 3 assaults also tended to be longer, particularly when compared to cases involving assaults against peace officers. Custodial sentences for assaults against peace officers were most similar to those for level 1 assault. These findings are consistent with the maximum custodial penalties associated with assaults: 14 years imprisonment for aggravated assault, 10 years for assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, and 5 years for assault against a peace officer and for assault level 1.

The findings for youth (12 to 17 years) convicted of serious assault were similar to those for adults (Table 4).[12] Youth court cases involving assault against peace officers were more likely to result in conviction than cases involving other forms of serious assault. Custodial sentences were most common and longest for convictions involving level 3 assault. And, while the proportion of cases involving convictions for assault against peace officers was similar to that for level 2 assault, sentence lengths were closer to those for level 1 assault.

Summary

Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault and assault against peace officers are among the few police-reported violent crimes to be rising in Canada. Increases over the past 10 years have been reported by police services across the country, with only a few exceptions. The increase in the rate of youth accused over this period was greater than that for adults. Data from adult and youth courts show that cases involving assaults against peace officers are more likely than other types of serious assault to result in conviction. Level 3 assaults, however, are most likely to result in custodial sentences.

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Detailed data tables

Table 1
Police-reported serious assaults, Canada, 1983 to 2008

	Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2)			Aggravated assault (level 3)			Assault against peace officers[2]		
Year[1]	number	rate[3]	percent change in rate[4]	number	rate[3]	percent change in rate[4]	number	rate[3]	percent change in rate[4]
1983	24,274	95.7	...	3,506	13.8	...	5,723	22.6	...
1984	26,282	102.6	7.3	2,998	11.7	-15.3	5,525	21.6	-4.4
1985	27,038	104.6	1.9	2,604	10.1	-13.9	5,401	20.9	-3.1
1986	29,013	111.2	6.2	2,722	10.4	3.5	5,793	22.2	6.2
1987	29,982	113.4	2.0	2,513	9.5	-8.9	6,320	23.9	7.7
1988	30,943	115.5	1.9	2,829	10.6	11.1	6,183	23.1	-3.4
1989	31,942	117.1	1.4	3,286	12.0	14.1	6,739	24.7	7.0
1990	35,282	127.4	8.8	3,470	12.5	4.0	7,954	28.7	16.3
1991	37,796	134.8	5.8	3,884	13.9	10.6	7,783	27.8	-3.3
1992	37,459	132.1	-2.1	3,551	12.5	-9.7	6,560	23.1	-16.7
1993	38,767	135.2	2.4	3,180	11.1	-11.4	6,791	23.7	2.4
1994	37,725	130.1	-3.8	2,998	10.3	-6.8	6,664	23.0	-2.9
1995	35,921	122.6	-5.8	2,763	9.4	-8.8	6,473	22.1	-3.9
1996	35,626	120.3	-1.9	2,748	9.3	-1.6	6,538	22.1	0.0
1997	36,665	122.6	1.9	2,645	8.8	-4.7	6,305	21.1	-4.5
1998	37,302	123.7	0.9	2,625	8.7	-1.6	6,821	22.6	7.3
1999	37,501	123.3	-0.3	2,517	8.3	-4.9	7,224	23.8	5.0
2000	40,686	132.6	7.5	2,566	8.4	1.0	7,616	24.8	4.4
2001	43,094	138.9	4.8	2,716	8.8	4.7	8,179	26.4	6.2
2002	43,793	139.7	0.5	2,732	8.7	-0.5	8,508	27.1	2.9
2003	45,222	142.9	2.3	2,913	9.2	5.7	8,868	28.0	3.3
2004	46,643	146.0	2.2	2,733	8.6	-7.1	9,089	28.5	1.5
2005	50,356	156.2	6.9	3,095	9.6	12.2	9,534	29.6	3.9
2006	53,357	163.8	4.9	3,352	10.3	7.2	9,593	29.4	-0.4
2007	54,788	166.4	1.6	3,481	10.6	2.7	9,873	30.0	1.9
2008	54,251	162.9	-2.1	3,554	10.7	0.9	9,699	29.1	-2.9

1. In 1983, legislation was introduced which changed the way in which assault was classified. As such, comparable trend data begin in 1983.
2. Peace officers include police officers, correctional officers, bailiffs, justices of the peace, municipal by-law officers and others who are employed for the maintenance of public peace.
3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Percent change is in reference to the previous year and is calculated based upon unrounded rates.

Notes: Counts are based upon the most serious offence in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations.
Data from 1983 to 1997 are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR1) Aggregate Survey whereas data from 1998 to 2008 are drawn from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Aggregate Survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2
Police-reported serious assaults, by province and territory, 2008

Province and territory	Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2)			Aggravated assault (level 3)			Assault against peace officers[1]		
	number	rate[2]	percent change in rate from 1998 to 2008[3]	number	rate[2]	percent change in rate from 1998 to 2008[3]	number	rate[2]	percent change in rate from 1998 to 2008[3]
Newfoundland and Labrador	713	140.4	54.7	29	5.7	62.3	103	20.3	92.1
Prince Edward Island	105	75.1	56.9	2	1.4	...	13	9.3	-25.7
Nova Scotia	1,498	159.6	110.7	87	9.3	41.6	362	38.6	168.3
New Brunswick	1,059	141.7	59.0	59	7.9	69.3	259	34.7	15.1
Quebec	11,259	145.3	67.4	245	3.2	-37.7	2,753	35.5	23.6
Ontario	14,762	114.2	1.5	1,290	10.0	6.1	2,834	21.9	23.7
Manitoba	3,976	329.2	23.3	324	26.8	46.7	439	36.3	35.1
Saskatchewan	3,921	385.9	61.4	357	35.1	70.3	532	52.4	66.0
Alberta	6,914	192.9	43.5	659	18.4	46.0	1,166	32.5	33.0
British Columbia	9,104	207.8	26.6	433	9.9	59.4	1,102	25.2	17.6
Yukon	158	476.7	78.9	12	36.2	2.5	23	69.4	35.1
Northwest Territories[4]	413	954.2	167.5	24	55.4	-9.8	60	138.6	101.3
Nunavut[5]	369	1,173.4	249.7	33	104.9	369.1	53	168.5	73.9
Canada	**54,251**	**162.9**	**31.7**	**3,554**	**10.7**	**22.6**	**9,699**	**29.1**	**28.7**

1. Peace officers include police officers, correctional officers, bailiffs, justices of the peace, municipal by-law officers and others who are employed for the maintenance of public peace.
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
3. Percent change based upon unrounded rates.
4. Includes Nunavut prior to 1999. As such, the percent change in the rate is calculated from 1999 to 2008.
5. Nunavut became a territory in 1999. As such, the percent change in the rate is calculated from 1999 to 2008.

Note: Counts are based upon the most serious offence in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3
Police-reported serious assaults, by census metropolitan area, 2008

Census metropolitan area[1,2,3]	Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2)			Aggravated assault (level 3)			Assault against peace officers[4]		
	number	rate[5]	percent change in rate from 1998 to 2008[6]	number	rate[5]	percent change in rate from 1998 to 2008[6]	number	rate[5]	percent change in rate from 1998 to 2008[6]
500,000 and over population									
Calgary	1,497	126.1	3.4	108	9.1	45.0	435	36.7	54.2
Edmonton	2,318	204.3	25.6	235	20.7	22.8	300	26.4	-9.4
Hamilton	849	120.5	-15.3	82	11.6	65.3	116	16.5	15.6
Kitchener	617	120.8	13.7	37	7.2	20.2	82	16.1	44.2
Montréal	6,224	165.2	38.3	99	2.6	-47.7	1,262	33.5	16.5
Ottawa[7]	664	72.6	-34.3	88	9.6	127.0	161	17.6	22.4
Québec	794	107.8	106.7	2	0.3	-83.0	157	21.3	-5.1
Toronto	6,431	116.2	-12.8	554	10.0	-8.0	1,146	20.7	49.5
Vancouver	4,728	207.4	29.3	210	9.2	34.9	412	18.1	6.4
Winnipeg	1,936	254.3	10.6	144	18.9	21.7	240	31.5	63.5
100,000 to less than 500,000 population									
Abbotsford-Mission[8]	349	205.6	151.8	22	13.0	10.2	45	26.5	45.0
Barrie[9]	154	79.1	-28.6	15	7.7	34.0	23	11.8	-47.4
Brantford[9]	210	152.8	3.6	11	8.0	-59.6	39	28.4	-12.1
Gatineau[10]	425	143.6	68.2	23	7.8	-16.2	164	55.4	64.9
Greater Sudbury	278	169.1	65.5	13	7.9	-22.6	52	31.6	11.9
Guelph[9]	110	90.5	-10.3	4	3.3	-43.6	37	30.4	52.1
Halifax	787	199.5	75.0	38	9.6	-0.4	218	55.3	328.5
Kelowna[9]	362	207.1	26.8	11	6.3	16.9	51	29.2	13.4
Kingston[8]	136	86.7	17.9	14	8.9	124.5	56	35.7	17.1
London	549	112.9	8.5	40	8.2	-8.4	136	28.0	31.6
Moncton[9]	172	129.7	8.1	10	7.5	-38.7	28	21.1	-8.5
Peterborough[9]	94	77.8	-21.1	9	7.5	345.5	17	14.1	-19.9
Regina	697	332.6	-20.8	54	25.8	35.6	52	24.8	10.3
Saguenay	224	154.9	48.2	6	4.1	-46.9	74	51.2	143.4
Saint John	189	185.4	60.6	9	8.8	57.3	57	55.9	117.9
Saskatoon	693	267.8	6.8	101	39.0	27.9	161	62.2	60.3
Sherbrooke	183	100.1	246.7	5	2.7	-33.7	74	40.5	7.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	558	126.2	50.5	45	10.2	228.7	121	27.4	41.8
St. John's	277	151.1	25.4	4	2.2	-46.2	51	27.8	100.2
Thunder Bay	245	204.9	-4.3	39	32.6	34.7	25	20.9	-37.7
Trois-Rivières	177	119.9	191.1	5	3.4	-64.2	81	54.8	-20.3
Victoria	493	142.0	-29.4	25	7.2	10.7	98	28.2	-13.2
Windsor	343	102.8	32.8	19	5.7	-78.0	122	36.6	4.5
Canada	**54,251**	**162.9**	**31.7**	**3,554**	**10.7**	**22.6**	**9,699**	**29.1**	**28.7**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. The CMA of Oshawa is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
4. Peace officers include police officers, correctional officers, bailiffs, justices of the peace, municipal by-law officers and others who are employed for the maintenance of public peace.
5. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
6. Percent change based upon unrounded rates.
7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
8. Abbotsford-Mission and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. As such, the percent change in the rate is calculated from 2001 to 2008.
9. Barrie, Brantford, Guelph, Kelowna, Moncton and Peterborough became CMAs as of the 2006 Census. As such, the percent change in the rate is calculated from 2006 to 2008.
10. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Note: Counts are based upon the most serious offence in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4
Criminal court cases involving serious assaults, adults and youth, 2006/2007

Type of assault	number of cases	number guilty	percent guilty	Most serious sentence						
				Custody			Probation		Other[2]	
				number	percent	average length (days)[1]	number	percent	number	percent
Adults (18 years and older)										
Assault (level 1)	40,957	21,837	53.3	3,519	16.1	53	14,169	64.9	4,149	19.0
Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2)	14,123	7,091	50.2	2,892	40.8	145	2,761	38.9	1,438	20.3
Aggravated assault (level 3)	1,211	628	51.9	431	68.6	618	46	7.3	151	24.0
Assault against peace Officers[3]	3,665	2,700	73.7	1,103	40.9	47	950	35.2	647	24.0
Youth (12 to 17 years)										
Assault (level 1)	5,682	3,404	59.9	341	10.0	38	1,882	55.3	1,181	34.7
Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2)	2,640	1,691	64.1	285	16.9	80	942	55.7	464	27.4
Aggravated assault (level 3)	254	148	58.3	83	56.1	208	32	21.6	33	22.3
Assault against peace officers[3]	488	352	72.1	54	15.3	37	194	55.1	104	29.5

1. Excludes cases where length of prison was unknown, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were coded as 9,125 days (25 years) for the calculation of sentence length means. Time in custody prior to sentencing is taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. However, the length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the survey.
2. Includes conditional sentences, fines, restitution, deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision, non-residential programs, community service orders, reprimands, suspended sentences, conditional discharges, absolute discharges and all other sanctions not listed above.
3. Peace officers include police officers, correctional officers, bailiffs, justices of the peace and municipal by-law officers and others who are employed for the maintenance of public peace.
Note: Data represent the most recent information available. In 2006/2007, data were received from all provinces and territories representing approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload and 100% of the youth criminal court caseload. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where all of the charges in the case have received a final disposition. It includes all charges against the same person where there are common overlapping key court dates. Data represent the most serious charge in the case. In multiple-charge cases, the charge with the most serious decision is used to represent the case. Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: guilty, guilty of a lesser offence, found guilty but not convicted (e.g., absolute or conditional discharge), acquitted, stay of proceeding, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged, not criminally responsible, other and transfer of court jurisdiction.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Notes

1. For further information on the categories and definitions of serious assault included in this *Juristat* article, see *Criminal Code*, R.S.C 1985, c. C-46, s. 267, s. 268, s. 270.

2. For more information on sexual assault in Canada, refer to Brennan, Shannon and Andrea Taylor-Butts. 2008. "Sexual assault in Canada, 2004 and 2007". *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series.* Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85F0033M, no. 19. Ottawa.

3. Data from 1983 to 1997 are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR1) Aggregate Survey whereas data from 1998 to 2008 are drawn from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Aggregate Survey.

4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

5. Figures are based upon the most serious offence in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations.

6. Includes incidents committed by current and former legal or common-law spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends as well as incidents committed by parents, children, siblings and other extended family members.

7. Includes acquaintances, friends, neighbours, business relationships, criminal relationships and authority figures.

8. These data are drawn from the UCR2 Incident-based survey and include incidents in which any violation was classified as an assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm or aggravated assault. The UCR Survey captures up to four violations for each incident.

9. Categories are not mutually exclusive and will therefore not add up to 100%. These data are drawn from the UCR2 Incident-based survey and include incidents in which any violation was classified as an assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm or aggravated assault. The UCR Survey captures up to four violations for each incident.

10. Data are from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey and represent the most recent information available. In 2006/2007, data were received from all provinces and territories representing 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

11. Figures reflect cases where a serious assault was determined to be the most serious charge in the case. A case is defined as one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where all of the charges in the case have received a final disposition. It includes all charges against the same person where there are overlapping court dates.

12. Data are from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey and represent the most recent information available. In 2006/2007, data were received from all provinces and territories representing 100% of the national youth criminal court caseload.